

What is claimed is:

1. A method for simulating a global industrial environment, the method comprising:
 - modeling a global economy as a set of interlinked economies;
 - modeling a management framework as a set of interlinked management functionalities; and
 - modeling both individual and organizational behaviors through a use of a set of interlinked agents, wherein the set of interlinked agents actively transact in the global economy and implement one or more of the set of interlinked management functionalities, and wherein the global industrial environment is dynamically configurable.
2. The method of claim 1, and further comprising customizing operational data in a distributed data management system for the set of interlinked economies, the set of interlinked management functionalities, and the set of interlinked agents, so that one or more variables in the global industrial environment changes over time.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the set of interlinked economies includes markets for goods, services, stocks, bonds, labor, currency, and intellectual property.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the set of interlinked management functionalities includes strategic planning, operations, production, distribution, accounting, quantitative methods, mergers and acquisitions, marketing, finance, and human resource functionalities.
5. A method for war-gaming a global economy implemented on a distributed computing environment, the method comprising:
 - forming a virtual global economy as a set of interlinked economies and political entities, wherein each economy is modeled based on a set of markets selected

from a group consisting of goods, services, stocks, bonds, labor, currency, and intellectual property;

representing a firm based on a set of management functionalities selected from a group consisting of strategic planning, operations, production, distribution, accounting, quantitative methods, mergers and acquisitions, marketing, finance, and human resources; and

engaging by a player as a firm against at least another player as another firm, which is a competitor of the firm, so as to induce a desired business strategy.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the distributed computing environment includes one or more elements each of which is selected from a group consisting of Active Server Pages, Java Server Pages, Enterprise Java Beans, Simple Java Classes, and Extensible Markup Language (XML) documents.

7. A method for electronically training individuals in a synthetic environment for analysis and simulation of a global industrial system, the method comprising:

creating a virtual execution environment on a distributed computing system, wherein the virtual execution environment is dynamically configurable;

conducting a pre-exercise briefing;

simulating a global economy having one or more markets;

operating a human agent in the virtual execution environment;

operating a plurality of artificial agents in the virtual execution environment, wherein the plurality of artificial agents represent intelligent software agents that each has a knowledge base programmed with rules of engagement;

simulating one or more management functionalities;

conducting one or more rounds of exercise-time activity; and

conducting a post-game analysis.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the method is performed in an order recited in claim 7.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the human agent is selected from a group consisting of a buyer agent, a seller agent, a regulator agent, an intermediary agent, and an organizational agent.
10. The method of claim 7, wherein the plurality of artificial agents are each selected from a group consisting of an individual agent and an organizational agent.
11. The method of claim 7, wherein the knowledge base of each of the plurality of artificial agents is selected from a group consisting of communications knowledge, messaging knowledge, operational knowledge, functional knowledge, and knowledge about authority.
12. The method of claim 7, wherein the one or more markets of the global economy are each selected from a group consisting of goods, services, stocks, bonds, labor, currency, and intellectual property.
13. The method of claim 7, wherein the one or more management functionalities are each selected from a group consisting of strategic planning, operations, production, distribution, accounting, quantitative methods, mergers and acquisitions, marketing, finance, and human resources.
14. The method of claim 7, and further comprising populating one or more independent data stores with customized data.
15. The method of claim 14, wherein the customized data is selected from a group consisting of customized data, customized behaviors, customized scenarios, customized rules, and customized content.

16. The method of claim 7, and further comprising operating one or more additional human agents in the virtual execution environment.

17. An industry simulation environment configured on a distributed computing system, the industry simulation environment comprising:

means for creating a virtual execution environment;

means for modeling one or more interlinked economies;

means for modeling one or more interlinked management functionalities;

means for modeling a plurality of agents; and

means for dynamically customizing run-time data in the industry simulation environment.

18. A computerized-method for running a business simulation game in a distributed computing system, the computerized-method comprising:

establishing a distributed virtual execution environment that includes one or more application servers;

establishing a distributed data management system that is operatively coupled to the distributed virtual execution environment, wherein the distributed data management system includes one or more data stores;

electronically simulating a set of interlinked economies on the distributed virtual execution environment;

electronically simulating a set of management functionalities on the distributed virtual execution environment;

electronically engaging a plurality of artificial agents within the distributed virtual execution environment; and

electronically customizing the one or more data stores of the distributed data management system.

19. The computerized-method of claim 18, and further comprising electronically engaging one or more live agents within the distributed virtual execution environment.

20. The computerized-method of claim 18, wherein the computerized-method is performed in an order recited in claim 18.

21. The computerized-method of claim 18, wherein each of the one or more data stores of the distributed data management system is selected from a group consisting of a scenario data store, a subscriber data store, an agent behavior data store, a content data store, and an industry data store.

22. A computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon for simulating a global industrial environment that is implemented on a distributed computing environment, wherein the instructions perform a computerized-method comprising:

modeling a global economy as a set of interlinked economies;

modeling a management framework as a set of interlinked management functionalities;

modeling both individual and organizational behaviors through a use of a set of interlinked agents, wherein the agents actively engage in the global economy and implement one or more management functionalities; and

customizing operational data for the set of interlinked economies, the set of interlinked management functionalities, and the set of interlinked agents, so that one or more variables in the global industrial environment changes over time.

23. A computerized-system comprising:

a virtual execution environment having one or more application servers in a distributed computing system, such that the one or more application servers process information during a simulation of a global industrial environment to provide functionality for a plurality of interlinked economies, a plurality of interlinked management functionalities, and a plurality of interlinked agents;

one or more independent data stores operatively coupled to the virtual execution environment; and

one or more customized data elements that populate both the virtual execution environment and the one or more independent data stores during the simulation of the global industrial environment.

24. The computerized-system of claim 23, wherein the one or more customized data elements are each selected from a group consisting of custom data, custom behaviors, custom scenarios, custom rules, and custom content.

25. A method for managing a strategic plan in a synthetic environment for analysis and simulation of a global industrial system, the method comprising:

creating a virtual execution environment, wherein the virtual execution environment is dynamically configurable;
simulating a global economy having one or more markets;
simulating a strategic-planning management functionality;
maintaining one or more data stores, wherein the one or more data stores are independent from the virtual execution environment;

engaging one or more human agents in the virtual execution environment, wherein the one or more human agents implement the strategic-planning management functionality; and

engaging a plurality of artificial agents in the virtual execution environment, wherein the plurality of artificial agents represent intelligent software agents that each has a knowledge base programmed with rules of engagement.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the method is performed in an order recited in claim 25.

27. The method of claim 25, and further comprising testing an execution of the strategic-planning management functionality.